Introduction:

I decided to go to the beach, and observe native Washingtonians in an unnatural habitat. Given that it is normally very rainy and cold here normally and not warm and sunny like is has been that last few weeks. I choose this place to study because I love Alki beach and being there makes me happy, I wanted to see if it had the same affect on other people as well as me. One place I would expect would not have the same effect on all people, but there is just something about the beach. It has the water that rolls on the rocks back and forth, bringing in the tide, and taking it back out. It has the sand, and the smells and the atmosphere where you can relax and not think about today’s worries.

I watched many different people and how they were working together as a group or for example there was one woman on her phone that was talking quite loud, and how she was affecting the people around her. I am going to present it as I watched it, because that would make the most sense of it, and limit my inferences on what was happening in the actual situation. When gathering the data I looked at distinct cultural practices within the group of people gathered at the beach that day. There are some parts that are not the entire story but half here and half there, because were I to watch them I might have crept them out, I would think.

Methodology:

I deiced on Alki because in the instructions it mentioned going a place you enjoy, and the beach is my happy spot, the place I go whenever I can be there and have the time. That is also how I fit into the picture because it is my beach; I have been there at all hours of the day, and go whenever I need too. It is the one place where I will always feel comfortable. With me I brought a notebook and pen, to take as many notes as I could about the people around me. My goal was to see what motivated the people around me to be there like I loved being there. I think my worldview of absolutely loving the beach will influence the study, because I could never have a sad thought at the beach, only happy and positive emotions come to me when I go there.

Data Presentation and Analysis

It was about three thirty on a sunny Monday afternoon. All observations were made at Alki Beach in Seattle Washington between 3:30 and 4:30 in the afternoon.

When I arrived there, there was a man sitting on a cement log sort of thing, with a longboard in front of him, and he was on his cell phone. He seemed to be waiting for someone. He was sitting there with his shirt off and I noticed that he had his nipples pierced, and multiple tattoos. After some time, two women with a dog walked up to the man with the longboard. The dog was not on a leash and there is a five hundred dollar fine for dogs on the beach, but I think the people were not really worried about getting a fine for their dog. After greeting each other, they walked down from the sidewalk to the sand area, where another woman was laying on the beach. The two women that had just walked up sat on the blanket with the woman on the beach. The man then laid down with them, but was laying on his back with his legs crossed in the air, giving a demeanor of not listening or caring what the women were discussing. I come back to this group of people in a later paragraph.

There was another group of people, one woman and her friend and her friends’ baby. The first woman was playing volleyball with herself, by setting in the air to do it again and again. The largest amount of times she made it was five. She then stopped to talk with her friend that was sitting with the baby. Her friend and her then continued to play, and at one point the first girl must have said lets go swimming, because I only heard the second girl say no, and the first girl in a whinny voice say “Why not!?” They continued to play volleyball for a little longer, then packed up the stroller and decided to take the baby home. The woman that wanted to go swimming seemed to be angry and a little bitter about the fact that they were leaving. The two women looked to be about twenty three to twenty five. For these women I felt that I saw camaraderie between them, but for the first girl, whenever the baby was brought into the picture she seemed more distant. This might be a sign of either jealousy of the baby getting attention she wanted or that she herself wants a child.

I then made the observation that people walking by seemed to be walking slow, and I wonder if it was because of the heat, and the fact that they are not used to such high temperatures in the area. This was common among all the people I was observing, they were active, but slow about it. It was as if they wanted to have the fun, but were way too exhausted to actually put the effort into the situation. I was glad at the time to have been wearing light clothing and not have to be active, because it was too hot to be truly running around.

There was also a woman in brightly colored clothing that was on her cell phone speaking quite loudly. She seemed to be exercising in the area, and chose to walk past Alki on her loud adventure. As she passed me I heard her say “O my god Debi, That’s all I really wanted, someone to be there and be…” I gather that she is speaking about a love interest that went sour. There are very few other situations where this statement would make sense. It could be understood that this woman and I have different cultures because of our different age differences, making for a larger variety of experiences that each of us could have had. This ethnology can be shown by how I personally would never talk about such a personal situation at the beach on a hot day. Her core values I cannot tell you, but it seems that modesty is not one of them.

After the brightly colored woman walked past, there was a small street race past the beach on Alki SW. There were three cars involved and a beach comber yelled something and the first car extreme revved his engine, as well as the final car. The middle car resisted the temptation and did not rev his engine. After the engine fiasco the person from the beach commented “Stupid racers’.” This comment seemed to be under his breath. It could be gathered that in the racing culture people are quick to show off. Like the driver of the first car after being provoked by the yeller from the beach. This shows a value they hold dear, and that would be pride. The drivers are prideful of the vehicles they are in, and want to show the people around them what they can do. It might be more than just show; they want to prove the vehicle to everyone around them.

Back to the first group of people, they are getting up to leave. There are loud voices, it seem they are arguing about something they were discussing. The man leaves with the blanket and the dog. He has his longboard and as they are leaving a passerby comments on it, saying it is nice and unique. He thanks them and mentions that he got it from a buddy of his. They are in the bike side of the side walk and a biker passing had to swerve because they were walking in an odd path. The biker became upset and yelled “You’re in the F\*\*\*ing bike path!” Needless to say the walkers were annoyed at being yelled at because they were walking to their car. Although one can also see the point of view of the biker, because he had to be dogging people the entire time he was on that bike path since there were so many people outside everyone was just walking where they wanted to. It seems that there is a culture clash in the people that are there to exercise in a serious manor and those that just want to be out in the sun.

Cross Cultural Comparison

Not yet completed because this is the first edition, with the second and final due the seventh.

Conclusion

I would like to compare further the relationship between serious exercisers and people just out to be out. It seems interesting, because they would not really seem to understand the other and what motivates the other to do what they are doing in that area. One place that might be interesting to observe is a sports shop, like *Play it again Sports* because that would seem to intrigue both groups of people. I would also like to look more at the racing scene in the area, but I do not really know a safe way for me to observe that situation and get accurate observations. One question unanswered is how all these different cultures can blend in one spot, the beach. What drives them all to make the effort to leave their homes and go to Alki? I think one implication of my findings is that everyone must work together, no matter that you are frustrated with what is happening it is happening and it goes easier if you just let it roll off, like the biker should have done. (1663)